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Chairman: Mr. Busacca ..... (Italy)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 105: Advancement of women (*continued*)

Agenda item 106: Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (*continued*) (A/C.3/52/L.16/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.16/Rev.1

1. **Ms. Eckey** (Norway) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.16/Rev.1, entitled "United Nations Development Fund for Women", on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Chile, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Romania, Singapore and the United Republic of Tanzania. After referring briefly to the content of the draft resolution, she expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

Agenda item 108: Promotion and protection of the rights of children (*continued*) (A/C.3/52/L.24 and L.25)

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.24

2. **Ms. De Wet** (Namibia) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.24, entitled "The girl child", on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Colombia, Denmark, Iceland, India, Liberia, New Zealand, Niger, Spain, Suriname, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. She then read out some revisions introduced by the sponsors. At the end of the third preambular paragraph, the phrase "including the need for better protection of child victims and witnesses" should be added. In the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "of the girl child" should be placed after the word "neglect" instead of after the word "discrimination", and the word "might" should be replaced with "can". At the end of paragraph 8, the phrase "and to take into account the special needs of the girl child in delivery of humanitarian assistance" should be added. Lastly, paragraph 16 should be replaced with the paragraph, "*Requests* all human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to regularly and systematically adopt a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information and qualitative analysis on violations of human rights of women and girls and encourages strengthening of cooperation and coordination in this regard".

3. **The Chairman** announced that Austria, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Mali and San Marino had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.25

4. **Mr. Frost** (United Kingdom) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.25, entitled "The rights of the child", on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Algeria, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Mozambique, Namibia, Samoa and Singapore. Since the many informal consultations on the draft resolution had been marked by consensus, he hoped that the Committee would adopt it without a vote.

5. **The Chairman** announced that Angola, Barbados, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Guyana, Kenya, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Solomon Islands and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

Agenda item 102: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*) (A/C.3/52/L.11/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.11/Rev.1

6. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.11/Rev.1, entitled "Education for all". He announced that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications and that Barbados, Bolivia, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, India, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Republic of Korea, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Venezuela and Viet Nam had joined the list of sponsors.

7. **Ms. Nyamsuren** (Mongolia) said that Colombia, Finland, Italy, Jamaica, Malta, Turkmenistan and the United States of America had also joined the list of sponsors.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.11/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.*

9. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 102.

Agenda item 103: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/C.3/52/L.4, L.6, L.7, L.8, L.22 and L.23)

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.4

10. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.4, entitled "Follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against

Organized Transnational Crime", and indicated that it had no programme budget implications.

11. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.4 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.6

12. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.6, entitled "Crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women"; the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.6 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.7

14. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.7, entitled "International cooperation against corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions"; the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

15. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.7 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.8

16. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.8, entitled "International cooperation in criminal matters"; the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

17. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.8 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.22

18. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.22, entitled "United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders"; the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

19. **Mr. Adawa** (Kenya) said that, following informal consultations, the sponsors had decided to merge paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution. Accordingly, in the second line of paragraph 7, the word "thereon" should be deleted; the phrase "on the implementation of the present resolution" should be added at the end of that paragraph; and paragraph 8 should be deleted. He trusted that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

20. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.22, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.23

21. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.23, entitled "Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity"; the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. The sponsors listed in the draft resolution had been joined by Argentina, Australia, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Lesotho, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Slovakia, Solomon Islands and South Africa.

22. **Mr. Baratolo** (Italy) said that the following countries had joined the sponsors: Bahamas, Chile, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Poland, Swaziland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United States of America and Uzbekistan.

23. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.23 was adopted.*

Agenda item 110: Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (*continued*) (A/52/3, A/52/18, A/52/116-S/1997/317, A/52/187, A/52/254-S/1997/567, A/52/301-S/1997/668, A/52/432, A/52/447-S/1997/775, A/52/463, A/52/471 and A/52/528)

Agenda item 111: Right of peoples to self-determination (*continued*) (A/52/139, A/52/286-S/1997/647, A/52/413, A/52/447-S/1997/775, A/52/485 and A/52/495)

24. **Mr. Al-Humaimidi** (Iraq) said that the right of peoples to self-determination was of obvious importance to the developing countries, since it was related to the right to development and to socio-economic and cultural rights. Both the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights enshrined the right of peoples to self-determination. In accordance with that right, peoples freely determined their political status and undertook their economic, social and cultural development. To those ends, all peoples should have free use of their natural resources.

25. Nevertheless, since the beginning of the 1990s, owing to changes in the international arena and despite the fact that international law enshrined the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, there had been disinformation campaigns to justify interference by some States in the affairs of other States, irrespective of the serious consequences for the latter and the enjoyment in them of human rights. For example, the United States of America had exploited those changes to erode the right to self-determination and the sovereignty of States and had resorted to military intervention to impose its will. Iraq had suffered from that policy since 1991. The military intervention in the north of Iraq, the aim of which was to undermine Iraq's territorial integrity, and the unjustified and unilateral imposition by the United Kingdom

of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America of a no-flight zone, constituted acts of interference in Iraq's internal affairs and a violation of its sovereignty. In 1993 and 1996 the United States of America had carried out three air attacks, with destruction of property and deaths of innocent civilians. Those attempts to destabilize the country and to change the regime were unjustified, since Iraq had undertaken to comply with the Security Council resolutions. In that way the right of the Iraqi people to benefit from their natural resources was being violated, in contravention of the two covenants. Iraq was being prevented from exercising its right to self-determination, recognized in the Charter and in declarations and decisions of the international community. Other States should put an end to those practices.

26. **Mr. Arda** (Turkey) said that the right to self-determination must not be understood as authorizing or encouraging any action which would undermine or impair totally or in part the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign, independent States with democratically elected governments and parliaments representing the whole population. In that regard Turkey was against the use of mercenaries, which it considered a threat to the right to self-determination.

27. More than three million Turkish citizens lived in other countries, as a result of which xenophobic tendencies were of major concern to his delegation. He supported United Nations initiatives to eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. His delegation also strongly supported the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance to convene a world conference on racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia without delay. He also supported the inclusion in the agenda for the conference of the question of immigration and xenophobia. With regard to the use of new information technologies, particularly the Internet, in spreading racist and xenophobic propaganda, he welcomed the initiative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to hold a seminar on the question of the Internet and racial discrimination. There was a distinction to be drawn between racial discrimination as a planned, deliberate policy directed at a target, such as ethnic cleansing and the systematic rape in Bosnia, and cases of racism and xenophobia, without any real cause, the very existence of the victim being enough to provoke racism.

28. He drew the attention of the Special Rapporteur to the fact that manifestations of racism were regrettably not limited to the Internet, and expressed his dismay and outrage at the racial manifestations which had started to appear in sports stadiums. There was also need to consider the unexpected and undesired consequences of racial attitudes, and to examine the relationship between racism, ethnonationalist terrorism and all kinds of fundamentalism. It was to be hoped that at the conclusion of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination there would be no need for a fourth decade.

29. **Mr. Spirollari** (Albania) expressed concern at the situation of ethnic Albanians in Kosova, who constituted over 90 percent of the population of that area. For years they had suffered brutal oppression at the hands of the Serbian authorities, had been deprived of all basic human rights and had been forced either to live as second-class citizens or to leave their homeland. In spite of three General Assembly resolutions, one Security Council resolution and numerous decisions and statements by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) had so far given no clear signs of a change in attitude. Seven years earlier, in a popular referendum, the ethnic Albanians of Kosova had expressed their desire to elect their own legitimate organs, proclaimed an independent republic in Kosova and created their own parallel institutions. He called upon the international community to continue to exert the necessary pressure for negotiations to be held on that issue and for international mediation to bring about a just, peaceful and democratic solution acceptable to all parties.

30. **Mr. Zaki** (Pakistan), speaking on the topic of the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, said that the equality of all persons and their right to enjoy equal protection under the law was a fundamental human right enshrined in numerous international legal instruments. Unfortunately, after the dismantling of the apartheid regime in South Africa, other forms of racism and racial discrimination, such as xenophobia and the persecution of minorities, ethnic groups, migrant workers and refugees, had arisen in the world. In the recent past, the heinous policy of ethnic cleansing which the Serbian aggressors had carried out in Bosnia and Herzegovina had constituted the cruellest manifestation of racial discrimination. For that reason, he was concerned at the slow implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Agreement). Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to be a deeply divided country in which clear patterns of discrimination and separation based on ethnic origin persisted. In addition, little progress had been made in the apprehension and prosecution of war criminals by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

31. In other parts of the world, vicious manifestations of racial discrimination continued to jeopardize friendly

relations between peoples, impede cooperation between nations and threaten international peace and security. In particular, he was concerned at the growing instances of discrimination against Muslim minorities in several countries, and the various forms of discrimination to which Muslim countries were subjected because of their religious beliefs, practices and cultural traditions. In an era of equality, cooperation and globalization, one should not speak of a clash of civilizations, but of coexistence between civilizations. It was dangerous to equate Islam with fundamentalism and terrorism. To blame Muslim nations was not only unfair; it also encouraged malicious designs against peaceful Muslim people. The concepts of terrorism and extremism were totally alien to the religion of Islam.

32. The phenomenon of the caste system had escaped the world's attention for far too long. The caste system, which negated equality among human beings, divided society into privileged and untouchable persons and preached discrimination, was an affront to human dignity. The new international order could not be built on such inequality and discrimination between people, and he would speak out against that system with a view to mitigating the sufferings of millions of people.

33. His Government had consistently extended moral, political and material support to peoples struggling against racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations, and would continue to do so. With regard to the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, there was a need for more investment in the social sector and education in order to contribute to eliminating the causes of racial tension. He fully supported the convening of a world conference on racism and endorsed the need for early universal acceptance of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

34. **Mr. Rogov** (Russian Federation) said that, in the light of the current process of economic, cultural and technological globalization, nations were seeking to protect themselves from the rapidity of change by reaffirming their own cultural and ethnic identity; that, in turn, sometimes encouraged the growth of contemporary forms of racism, such as discrimination against national minorities and ethnocentrism. It was essential that the rights of minorities – who were defined by such indicators as income, access to social services and degree of political participation – should continue to be safeguarded in the framework of the activities for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

35. It was essential for universal ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to be achieved by the year 2000, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights, and for new declarations to be made under article 14, paragraph 1, of the Convention. He supported the proposal to hold a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance by the year 2001, and stressed the importance of joint efforts and the avoidance of polemics in the preparatory process.

36. With regard to agenda item 111, he believed that in order to promote a smooth transition from a bipolar world to a multipolar one, the right to self-determination should be interpreted in such a way as to release its creative potential, and, at the same time, avoid the exacerbation of conflicts in multinational States, by maintaining a balance between the territorial integrity of States and the rights of minorities. The 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations retained its validity; the exercise of the right to self-determination should not impair the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States, possessed of a government representing the whole people belonging to the territory without distinction.

37. The democratic exercise of self-determination within a multinational State meant the promotion of cultural pluralism through the decentralization of government. Since 1994 27 bilateral agreements to that end had been signed in his country; such agreements encompassed the territories in which 50 per cent of the population lived. As President Yeltsin had stated, democratization processes posed the risk that centrifugal and extremist forces might usurp the right to self-determination to promote an aggressive separatism, which should be unequivocally condemned by the international community.

38. **Mr. Winnick** (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he was astounded by the Iraqi delegation's statement that the United States had committed violations of Iraqi sovereignty. He assumed that Iraq was actually referring to the numerous resolutions adopted by the Security Council since 1990. In that regard, he believed that the solution was for Iraq to comply with the provisions of those resolutions.

39. **Mr. Al-Humaimidi** (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he had been referring to measures adopted unilaterally by the United States without a mandate from the Security Council, particularly, the acts of aggression committed in 1993 and 1996. The decision to establish a no-flight zone north of the 36th parallel and south of the 33rd parallel had also been taken unilaterally.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.